

**Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting  
of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches  
held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at The Salvation Army Hall,  
Sythwood, Woking GU21 3BE.**

**Present:** Chairman: Mr Tony Kremer  
Membership Secretary: Mr Martin Stilwell  
General Secretary: Mr Geoffrey Johnson  
Committee Member: Mr Alan Taylor  
Committee Member: Mrs Angela Williams

And 19 members of the Association

**Guests:** Claire Phillips: Surrey Police  
Linda Crowley: Community Protection Supervisor Surrey  
Trading Standards

**Apologies:** Nolan Heather: Woking Neighbourhood Inspector Surrey Police

### **1. Welcome.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those who had organised the evening and everyone for their attendance. He noted that despite ample notification, the attendance fell short of 25 being the ten per cent stipulated in the Association's Constitution. He therefore asked for the approval of those present to proceed with the Annual General Meeting. No objections were raised & approval was given by a show of hands.

### **2. Apologies for Absence.**

A number of apologies had been received from members including the Treasurer Mrs Fui Ling Bolton & committee member Mrs June Weaver.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 30th June 2015.**

The General Secretary Geoffrey Johnson drew the meeting's attention to Item 3 concerning the Constitution & the AGM. The full membership had been notified of the position & no objections had been received. He therefore asked for approval of the Minutes; this was proposed by Gerald Sweeney & seconded by Martin Stilwell & accepted.

### **4. Chairman's Report.**

Mr. Kremer thanked the Committee & the general membership for their support during the year. He specifically thanked Mrs Fui Ling Bolton who had played a major role in founding the Association & had been Treasurer since its inception, Mrs Angela Williams who was also retiring from the Committee & also past Chairman Derek Bartholomew who was retiring from the role of Area Co-ordinator. He went on to summarise the Association's activities over the past twelve months which he said had been a year of change. The recently implemented new policy on Surrey Neighbourhood Policing, the new IT communication system & a new recently elected Police & Crime Commissioner all presented challenges for WAN.

In addition to asking how WAN can support co-ordinators, he also appealed for members to consider joining the Committee or acting as Area Co-ordinators.

The full text of Mr Kremer's report is to be found at the end of these minutes.

### **5. Treasurer's Report.**

In Mrs. Bolton's absence, Mr Kremer presented the accounts for the year to the end of March 2016, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

The accounts had been independently examined. Total expenditure amounted to £148 mainly due to purchase of security items for resale both to the membership & at public events. Income had remained fairly constant at £143 leaving a modest cash shortfall for the year of £5. This had the effect of reducing the Association's Balance Sheet to £689 plus the value of stock in hand.

Donations accounted for one third of the income. These were mainly through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), an internet purchasing route. This rebates a small percentage of members' internet purchases back to the Association. The identity of the purchaser is not revealed. The remaining two thirds resulted from sales of security items.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Les Adcock & seconded by Martin Stilwell. The accounts were duly accepted.

## **6. Election of Officers.**

The following members comprised the current committee:

Mr Tony Kremer: Chairman

Mrs Fui Ling Bolton: Treasurer

Mr Martin Stilwell: Membership Secretary

Mr Alan Taylor

Mrs June Weaver

Mrs Angela Williams

Mr Geoffrey Johnson: General Secretary.

Mrs Bolton & Mrs Williams had both indicated that due to other commitments, they wished to stand down, whilst the remaining Committee members were offering themselves for re-election.

The following two members were willing to serve on the committee:

Mr Marc Alderman

Mr Steve Dew.

The Committee as above was proposed by Maureen Mullany, seconded by Gerald Sweeney & duly elected.

Mr Mark Wilson had also agreed to continue as Independent Examiner. His re-appointment was proposed by Geoffrey Johnson & seconded by Martin Stilwell. He was duly re-appointed. It was noted that following a move away from the area Mr Wilson would be willing to hand over his responsibilities.

## **7. Area Co-ordinators.**

The Chairman appealed for members to act as Area Co-ordinators to fill vacant positions.

The role involves acting as the main WAN contact point for the area, developing relationships with the Neighbourhood Police & the WAN members.

## **8. Any Other Business.**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the formal AGM

## **9. Community Policing in Woking Update: PC Claire Phillips.**

In the absence of Woking Inspector Nolan Heather, PC Phillips described the recently implemented Policing in Your Neighbourhood (PIYN).

These changes have been more fully described elsewhere (see Surrey Police press releases & report on WAN Co-ordinators Conference 27<sup>th</sup> February). The new system is a more efficient deployment of Police resources & continues the commitment to Neighbourhood Policing whilst operating in the current financial climate. PC Phillips commented that it is not unlike that of twenty years ago.

The emphasis is now on Area Policing Teams supported by local Neighbourhood Teams. This allows crimes to be dealt with from `start to finish `by the same personnel. An amount of retraining for Investigating Officers is required as the CID now only deal with high level offences.

PC Phillips mentioned that Neighbourhood Teams now organise residents meetings to deal with antisocial behaviour.

A comment from a member present questioned whether the new Teams were yet familiar with their local areas.

#### **10. Are You Helping the Criminals: Martin Stilwell**

Martin gave a short presentation on the basics of computer safety, a copy of his slides have been forwarded to members.

#### **11. Scams & Doorstep Crimes: Linda Crowley Surrey Trading Standards.**

Mrs Crowley described some types of criminal activities she had come across in her work as Community Protection Supervisor & Vulnerable Persons Officer with Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards.

These could involve elderly people being duped into paying large sums of money (often cash) for non-existent or unnecessary external repairs to houses. The average age of victims is 74.

Her advice included: It is a criminal offence for doorstep callers not to leave your property when asked to do so. Suspicious activity can be reported to the Consumer Helpline of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Chekatrade have removed several names from their list.

The slides from Mrs Crowley's presentation have been sent to members.

#### **12. Close of Meeting.**

The chairman again thanked the speakers & closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

## WAN CHAIR'S REPORT MAY 2016

This has been a year for change in Surrey Police: PIYN reorganisation, new PCC, New Community Information System on the way. Last year WAN undertook new things with some success, I must say, in the teeth of a continued reduction in the input from our friends in Surrey Police. Unfortunately last year we had no representation and again tonight Insp. Heather is not able to come, but we are delighted to have his representative here. He has also given us the name of a new contact point for the future, PS Emmie Harris. With the demise of Panel Meetings this will be an important channel of communication.

Your Committee has been working very hard and my thanks go to Martin Stilwell, Alan Taylor, Geoffrey Johnson, Angela Williams, June Weaver, and also to Fui Ling Bolton and Derek Bartholomew who support us on various initiatives. Stepping down this time will be Angela and Fui Ling, and Derek will cease his role as Area Coordinator. Our thanks go to them all, for their support over many years

We do have some new faces who have offered themselves as Committee Members, Stephen Dew who volunteers at the Police station and Marc Alderman who we have known for many years.

What have we been up to?

It's been a year of change – new PCC, PIYN (Police In Your Neighbourhood), and shortly the introduction of the new community information system to replace ACS which is the tool in place at present. Woking hosted a major Surrey-wide conference on February 27 at which all these matters were addressed. A few words about all of these matters:

- David Munro was elected on May 5 and I shall be meeting him quite soon as Deputy Chair of SNWA. I want to invite him to another Surrey-wide conference in the early Autumn, so I hope you will keep your eye open for that.
- I will expect the policing structure across Surrey to settle down only after a few months as there is a major training challenge involved – not just a new structure but people doing different jobs. In summary the police are restructuring so that a single officer will manage a crime from concept to prosecution. Woking is coping quite well compared with other parts of Surrey, so we are grateful to Nolan for his good preparation.
- Intheknow is the name of the new system that replaces ACS. We have written to all Coordinators asking you to register NOT there but on the Ourwatch website which is the national NHW register. Your details will automatically be passed to Surrey Police for you to get messages in the future.
- incidentally there have been no crime reports for a few months as Insp. Heather is investigating other sources of crime details to provide us with regular updates. He is looking to provide more comprehensive information than that previously available.
- An innovation which we hoped to launch in September was Junior NHW. I appealed at last year's AGM and in WoW for two confident people, possibly ex-teachers, to be trained up. All the sessions were well-scripted and supported by worksheets, thanks to Sussex NHW, who will deliver the pilot at New Monument School, but unfortunately no volunteers were forthcoming. We are instead going to look to provide help to Woking BC in March to deliver the Junior Citizen scheme. This will be a great experience and a very valuable contribution to the community, so please let me know if you are interested.

At recent meetings with the Police and the Council we have been reassured that NHW can play a core role in communications between the Police and the residents. A key part of this is passing on email alerts from the Police and WAN. To do this once again we must ask you to gather your residents' email addresses and forward them the emails (use BCC or "blind copies" when you do this) or hand-deliver them. Remember to say you'll be keeping these email addresses confidential. During the process of registering watches on the Ourwatch website we plan to make sure all watches are able to do this important cascading role.

When the Police have changed their IT systems to allow it, they will be changing the areas in Woking to map against the 10 new Council ward boundaries. We shall reorganize our Area Coordinators then

too. We do have vacancies for this role, especially in the south and east of Woking where Derek and Fui Ling have retired.

Last year we started stocking a wide-range of good value anti-theft devices and these have since been offered on stalls at village fairs, street parties etc, in part to promote the idea of NHW more widely. Items will be on sale at tonight's AGM too. We have also obtained some advice about CCTV and I can pass this on to you. We can also take advantage of a NHW discount through our friends at Surrey Heath.

Also new this year will be research as to how we can strengthen the fight against Hate Crime. We will be working with the Council to raise awareness of this. Basically they want to get more crime reports on what might be a rather isolated series of incidents. Ring 101 please or use the Police website to report any Hate crime incidents you witness.

With our contacts with the local police teams now severely limited we are looking for alternative avenues to help minimize crime in our town and two useful sources are "cybersafesurrey" and "Surrey Trading Standards". If you have not tried then I suggest you do.

For your information the Surrey Police website has been restructured and it is much more user friendly for reporting Non Emergency Crimes. The front page now has a "Report online" field which directs to a series of options such as dogs, fly tipping, lost & found property, naughty neighbours, and many others - and of course crime.

As we start another year I would be interested to hear from you how WAN can support you or what do you want from WAN. We are not in any way autocratic and welcome new initiatives and your involvement. What should we cover in about future co-ordinator events?